


October 15, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, DOE/019/003, DOE/019/006, and DOE/019/007,
Polar Mesa

The Division received three D.O.E.'s in 1977 for the Polar Mesa area. All three were for underground uranium mines. The claims in this area are still held by Umetco, but the mines have not been worked since the late 1970's. I inspected this area on October 8, 1987, and I recommend that all three files be closed. A summary of each site can be found below:

DOE/019/003

In December, 1976, Mr. C.W. Bunker notified the State Industrial Commission that he was ceasing operations on Polar Mesa until spring time. The Division asked Mr. Bunker to file the appropriate form for the mine site. Mr. Bunker filed a D.O.E. for the Elva M claims in Section 34 on February 15, 1977. Mr. Bunker probably mined the Elva M No. 2 and No. 3 claims from a shaft located in the extreme northeast corner of Section 34. This site consists of a headframe, fenced shaft, and about one acre of surface disturbance (road included).

DOE/019/006

In June, 1977, Union Carbide filed a D.O.E. for the Effie and F.W. claims which Mr. Bunker was working under a lease agreement. These claim blocks appear to have been accessed by a shaft located on the section line between Section 34 and 35. The site is a carbon copy of DOE/019/003.

DOE/019/007

In August, 1977, Atlas Minerals file a D.O.E. in behalf of an unnamed agent for exploration and development work in Section 26 on Polar Mesa. There are only two mines in Section 26. The Helen F mine is a tunnel on the side of the mesa and is accessed by a narrow road. The second area, Rimrock, is a very old mine site where the shallow ore body was mined and the roof later collapsed. The rock chinkwork and the mature sagebrush and pinyon indicated that very little activity could have occurred here since the 1950's. The roads into both mines are eroded and impassible. It appears that neither site would have encompassed more than two acres of surface disturbance.

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(COATES CREEK)

